

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN>](mailto:Ben.Washburn@FDA.HHS.gov)  
To:  
CC:  
Date: 8/19/2014 3:45:28 PM  
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 8/19/14

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#### **OPA Daily Digest for 8/19/14**

##### **Congressional Inquiries:**

**Rep. Lee Terry** (Neb.) – Letter – 8/4/14: NPDES permitting of water treatment plant lime residuals along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Due: 8/18/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

**Sen. Charles Grassley** (Iowa) – Letter – 7/24/14: Abandoned school site contaminated with asbestos in Letts, Iowa. Due: 7/24/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

##### **State Government Inquiries:**

None

##### **Press Inquiries:**

**Greenwire** – Tiffany Stecker – 8/1/14: Requesting interview with RA for profile piece about EPA's relationship with agriculture community. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

**Inside EPA** – Lee Logan – 8/8/14: Inquired about RA's speech at the Greenhouse Gas Strategy Forum on Clean Power Plan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

**KVOE Radio, Emporia, Kan.** – Chuck Samples/A.J. Dome – 8/18/14: Questions regarding removal of air monitor in Manhattan, Kan., Kanzaa Prairie site. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

**The Messenger, Ft. Dodge, Iowa** – Joe Suter – 8/19/14 – Questions about waters of the U.S. proposal were referred to HQ. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**KMZU Radio, Carrollton, Mo.** – Krisite Cross – 8/19/14 - Questions about waters of the U.S. proposal were referred to HQ. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**Nebraska Grain and Feed Newsletter** – Richard Sanne – 8/19/14 - Published R7 information about grain elevator regulatory proposal. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**Maintaining Safe Schools** – Krista Birkeland White – 8/19/14: Questions about R7's Healthy Schools Toolkit. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 (closed)

**WDAF Ch. 4 Kansas City** – Abby Eden – 8/19/14: Questions regarding PCBs in schools. Directed to EPA PCB website and referred her policy question to headquarters. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

#### **Environmental Stories:**

**Des Moines Register - Iowa CCI threatens suit if environmental leaders vote** - 8/18/14 - A state environmental protection panel will consider rules Tuesday that will guide how Iowa livestock facilities are regulated, but a group that says the proposal is too weak is already threatening a lawsuit.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/green-fields/2014/08/18/before-vote-taken-activists-threaten-lawsuit/14238279/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Ameren: 1,200 megawatts of natural gas needed to comply with emissions rules** - 8/19/14 - Ameren Missouri says it will need to add 1,200 megawatts of combined cycle natural gas generation by 2020 in order to comply with EPA's proposal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions linked to climate change.

[http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/ameren-megawatts-of-natural-gas-needed-to-comply-with-emissions/article\\_a7bc950c-1039-581e-9690-7d351de0f00c.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/ameren-megawatts-of-natural-gas-needed-to-comply-with-emissions/article_a7bc950c-1039-581e-9690-7d351de0f00c.html)

**Associated Press - Environmental commission to vote on water rules** - 8/18/14 - The commission that oversees water quality regulations in Iowa is considering adoption of new rules that align state regulations with those imposed by the federal Clean Water Act. <http://kimt.com/2014/08/19/environmental-commission-to-vote-on-water-rules/>

**Joplin Globe - EPA launches criminal probe into Tyson discharge** - 8/18/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched a criminal probe of Tyson Foods in connection with the discharge of a feed supplement into Monett's wastewater treatment plant. The discharge in May allegedly caused Monett's wastewater plant to fail, leading to the death of more than 100,000 fish in a 4.5-mile stretch of Clear Creek, which flows downstream from the plant.

[http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/article\\_a90cf9f6-2742-11e4-918c-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/article_a90cf9f6-2742-11e4-918c-0019bb2963f4.html)

**RFD TV (Nashville - Is the EPA's new proposal a threat to farming and ranching?** (video) - 8/18/14 - The Missouri State Fair wrapped up this past weekend. During the event, Missouri lawmakers spoke to farm bureau members about the EPA's newly proposed Waters of the U.S. Regulations. <http://www.rfdtv.com/story/26316889/is-the-epas-new-proposal-a-threat-to-farming-and-ranching>

**KCCI Ch. 8 Des Moines - Commission to consider tougher water rules** - 8/18/14 - The commission that oversees water quality regulations in Iowa is considering adoption of rules that align state regulations with those imposed by the federal Clean Water Act. <http://www.kcci.com/news/commission-to-consider-tougher-water-rules/27610300>

**Sioux City Journal (Iowa) - Fish kills in O'Brien and Lyon counties under investigation** - 8/18/14 - State officials are investigating two unrelated fish kills that occurred Friday in Siouxland. Manure runoff from a dairy in southwest O'Brien County is being blamed for a large fish kill in more than 5 miles of Mill Creek.

[http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/fish-kills-in-o-brien-and-lyon-counties-under-investigation/article\\_09737e54-a81f-5a2d-ace1-649492300eed.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/fish-kills-in-o-brien-and-lyon-counties-under-investigation/article_09737e54-a81f-5a2d-ace1-649492300eed.html)

**WDAF Ch. 4 Kansas City - Retired farmer raises concern about smelly fertilizer sprayed near home** - 8/18/14 - A retired farmer called FOX 4 Problem Solvers upset that the fertilizer being sprayed near his home is actually treated human sewage. "It looks like a field of wet muck," said Bob Myers who lives in Clay County near Liberty. Myers said the smell on a hot day is overpowering. <http://fox4kc.com/2014/08/18/retired-farmer-raises-concern-about-smelly-fertilizer-sprayed-near-home/>

**Quad City Times - Braley brings in Ag chair to attack Ernst on renewable fuels** - 8/18/14 - Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Braley continued to hammer his

Republican opponent, claiming she doesn't support the farm bill and renewable fuels. [http://qctimes.com/news/local/government-and-politics/elections/braley-brings-in-ag-chair-to-attack-ernst-on-renewable/article\\_cf2f7924-2eee-5afc-9a2d-71345da24de0.html](http://qctimes.com/news/local/government-and-politics/elections/braley-brings-in-ag-chair-to-attack-ernst-on-renewable/article_cf2f7924-2eee-5afc-9a2d-71345da24de0.html)

**KSMU Ozark Public Radio, Springfield, Mo. (audio) - A Look at Something Many Take for Granted: Water** - 8/18/14 - Randy Hoops, with the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri, discusses Springfield's water supply with Gail Melgren, executive director of the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition, Gary Gibson, director of distribution at City Utilities and Dr. Todd Brewer, assistant manager of CU's Water Quality Labs. <http://ksmu.org/post/look-something-many-take-granted-water>

**Midwest Energy News - After a slow start, PACE getting off the ground in Missouri** - 8/19/14 - Four years after Missouri passed a law allowing Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), the state is on the verge of launching the first few projects. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/08/19/after-a-slow-start-pace-getting-off-the-ground-in-missouri/>

**Brownfield Ag News - Kansas officials developing 50-year water plan** - 8/18/14 - The state of Kansas is developing a 50-year plan for managing water in the state. According to Tracy Streeter, director of the Kansas Water Office, the wide variation in rainfall from west to east in the state makes that task a bit more challenging. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/08/18/kansas-officials-developing-50-year-water-plan/>

**Des Moines Register - Environmental group's TV ad knocks Ernst for oil fundraiser** - 8/19/14 - NextGen Climate, the environmental advocacy group that is one of the top players in Iowa's hotly contested U.S. Senate race, is out with a new TV ad today attacking Republican candidate Joni Ernst. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/elections/2014/08/19/joni-ernst-nextgen-tv-ad-oil/14287569/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

**Heritage Foundation - Reining in the EPA Through the Power of the Purse** - 8/19/14 - While significant criticism is rightfully directed to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on issues such as greenhouse gas (GHG) regulation, Congress itself is to blame for not reasserting its lawmaking power over an agency that is supposed to be implementing the will of Congress, not the will of the agency. <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2014/08/reining-in-the-epa-through-the-power-of-the-purse>

**The Hill - GOP lawmaker uses flawed reports to bash EPA coal rule** - 8/19/14 - If corporations were indeed people, those corporations that operate coal plants would be quite pleased with Rep. Mike Kelly's (R-Pa.) piece for them in the Wall Street Journal. Unfortunately for readers, the piece addresses neither the impact carbon pollution has on health or the very real danger of global climate change. What readers do get is rhetoric riddled with misinformation and studies that have at best a misleading relationship to this debate. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/215397-gop-lawmaker-uses-flawed-reports-to-bash-epa-coal-rule>

**National Newspaper Publishers Association - EPA to Require Air Pollution Measurements in Black Communities** - 8/19/14 - For the first time, the Environmental Protection Agency may require oil refineries to regularly measure the air quality at their perimeters. These fence line measurements will give surrounding communities – largely low-income communities of color – data on the level of pollution they are exposed to each day. <http://sacobserver.com/2014/08/epa-to-require-air-pollution-measurements-in-black-communities/>

**EcoWatch - Major Federal Court Ruling Will Help Transition Grid to Renewables** - 8/19/14 - On Friday the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington D.C. upheld the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order No. 1000, which eliminates many obstacles in the way of modernizing the electrical transmission grid. <http://ecowatch.com/2014/08/19/court-ruling-grid-renewables/>

**Wall Street Journal - Opinion: Obama's Second-Term Energy Policy Is Working** - 8/19/19 - President Obama has put energy and the environment at the top of his second-term agenda. The focus has been on climate change, and on exploiting the unexpected plenty of North American oil, gas and energy technology. The administration's

progress has been notable. <http://online.wsj.com/articles/john-deutch-obamas-second-term-energy-policy-is-working-1408404210>

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**Science Watch - EPA will review restrictive communication policy for science advisers** - 8/18/14 - In response to a letter from science and journalism organizations criticizing the agency's restrictive policy on public communications by Science Advisory Board members, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy has asked the EPA Science Adviser to review the policy. Hopefully this will create an opportunity to raise a number of issues about a complex issue -- the relationship between EPA scientists, the media, and the public. <http://www.climate-science-watch.org/2014/08/18/epa-will-review-restrictive-communication-policy-for-science-advisers/>

**GreenTech Media - The Argument for Why Utilities Should Give Up Operational Control of the Distribution Grid** - 8/18/14 - Jon Wellinghoff: "If utilities really think through this, they'll understand there's a huge advantage." Compared to the status quo, in which utilities have little structural incentive to invest in these technologies as part of a long-term growth strategy, the plan is quite radical. <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/why-utilities-should-give-up-operational-control-of-the-distribution-grid>

**Associated Press - Less shake from artificial quakes, fed study says** - 8/18/14 - Man-made earthquakes, a side effect of some high-tech energy drilling, cause less shaking and in general are about 16 times weaker than natural earthquakes with the same magnitude, a new federal study found. <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/less-shake-artificial-quakes-fed-study-says>

**Bloomberg - Solar Boom Driving First Global Panel Shortage Since 2006** - 8/19/14 - The solar industry is facing a looming shortage of photovoltaic panels, reversing a two-year slump triggered by a global glut. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-08-18/solar-boom-driving-first-global-panel-shortage-since-2006.html>

**Fox News - Power plant regs spur new union rebellion for Obama administration** - 8/18/14 - The Obama administration is facing another union rebellion over its environmental policies, this time over the EPA's proposed rules for limiting power plant emissions. <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/08/18/power-plant-regs-spur-new-union-rebellion-for-obama-administration/>

**Voice of America - Report: Knowledge Alone Won't Spur Environmental Action** - 8/18/14 - When it comes to protecting the environment, talk is cheap. Redlands University Professor Monty Hempel says a sense of urgency is needed before people are willing to act to protect the health of the planet. <http://www.voanews.com/content/ecoliteracy-18aug14/2417240.html>

**Scientific American - Booming Rooftop Solar Power Suffers Growing Pains** - 8/18/14 - As photovoltaics on rooftops become more affordable, they have become more and more of a threat to traditional electric utilities. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/booming-rooftop-solar-power-suffers-growing-pains/>

**The Energy Collective - Opening the Multi-Trillion Dollar Market for Energy Management** - 8/18/14 - Energy management is one of the most important parts of our changing energy landscape. It is a market made up of part energy efficiency, part Big Data solution and part Internet of Things. <http://theenergycollective.com/eliashinckley/467356/opening-multi-trillion-dollar-market-energy-management>

**Washington Post - Old car batteries could make cheaper, more efficient solar panels** - 8/18/14 - Lead-acid car batteries have the potential to cause a whole host of environmental issues, but their continued use – which allows manufacturers to recycle the dangerous lead from one battery to another – keeps the pollutants out of the environment. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2014/08/18/old-car-batteries-could-make-cheaper-more-efficient-solar-panels/>

**Think Progress - More U.S.-Made Wind Turbines Are Being Sold Overseas As Congress Fails To Support Wind Power** - 8/18/14 - A report released by the Department of Energy Monday shows a substantial increase in the percentage of American-made small wind turbines being sold to other countries, driven in part by Congress' refusal to act on renewing a key subsidy for the U.S. wind industry. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/08/18/3472512/doe-wind-reports/>

**Vox - Meet the companies that are trying to profit from global warming** - 8/19/14 - Global warming isn't necessarily bad news for everyone. For some companies and countries, it may be even be a huge boon. <http://www.vox.com/2014/8/18/6031219/how-to-profit-off-of-global-warming>

**E&E News PM - Farm groups seek judgment in lawsuit over release of CAFO files** - 8/18/14 - The American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Pork Producers Council are asking a federal court for summary judgment in a lawsuit accusing U.S. EPA of violating the Freedom of Information Act by releasing confidential files on large livestock operations last year. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060004627/>

**E&E News PM - EPA refuses to reclassify areas that can't meet ozone standard** - 8/18/14 - U.S. EPA has denied a petition from environmentalists to name nearly 60 areas of the country out of compliance with the federal ozone standard. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060004585>

**E&E News PM - Low-key staffer jumps into political hot seat** - 8/18/14 - Lisa Feldt wasn't the obvious candidate to replace Bob Perciasepe as U.S. EPA's second in command. She's a quiet, low-key engineer by training who has spent most of her 30-year career as a behind-the-scenes workhorse, largely steering clear of the political spotlight. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060004607>

**Greenwire - Watchdog sues to force release of White House records** - 8/18/14 - Cause of Action, a conservative-leaning watchdog group, sued a dozen federal agencies today for being slow to disclose White House records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060004618/>

**Greenwire - Green group seeking new documents in quest to prove State Dept. bias** - 8/18/14 - A green group working to stop Keystone XL today used freedom-of-information laws to seek documents related to a June addition to the State Department's review of the pipeline that projected a higher number of fatalities if rejecting the project pushed more heavy oil traffic onto railways. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060004609/>

**BNA - Midwest Keystone Segment a Private Project, Not Subject to NEPA, Federal Court Rules** - 8/18/14 - The federal government is not required to conduct an environmental impact review of a nearly 600-mile segment of the Keystone pipeline because it is being constructed almost entirely on private land by a private company. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=51620331&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4u0e2b6&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51620331&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4u0e2b6&split=0)

**BNA - State Legislators Endorse Development Of Solar Power as Top Priority for 2015** - 8/18/14 - The National Caucus of Environmental Legislators Aug. 18 announced that its members would be focusing on solar power initiatives as their No. 1 priority for 2015. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=51620313&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4t8m2x6&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51620313&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4t8m2x6&split=0)

**BNA - EPA Seeks Denial of Industry Requests For Court Review of PVC Air Toxics Rule** - 8/18/14 - A federal appeals court should deny industry petitions for review of federal air toxics emissions standards for polyvinyl chloride facilities, the Environmental Protection Agency said in a court filing. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=51620335&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4u0t7f5&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51620335&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4u0t7f5&split=0)

**BNA - CDC Withdraws Some Data on Chemicals Measured in People After Discovering Errors** - 8/18/14 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has withdrawn some data it released in July reporting measurements of chemicals in people's bodies after it discovered an error in sampling weights. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=51620342&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4u7q8u1&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51620342&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f4u7q8u1&split=0)

**BNA - No State Uniformity Found in Monitoring Leaking Lead Additives From Storage Tanks** - 8/18/14 - States have no consistent strategy for addressing leaking leaded gasoline additives from storage tanks that can potentially contaminate groundwater, a new report from state waste officials concludes.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=51620318&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0f4t9b4p5&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51620318&vname=denotallissues&jd=a0f4t9b4p5&split=0)

**Inside EPA - EPA Defends Methods For Analyzing Rules' Impacts On Employment** - 8/18/14 - EPA is defending the methods it uses to analyze the potential impacts its rules might have on jobs, arguing a major industry group is misrepresenting a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report.

<http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-08/19/2014/epa-defends-methods-for-analyzing-rules-impacts-on-employment/menu-id-130.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Advisors Suggest Expanding 'Waters' Rule To Oversee Groundwater** - 8/18/14 - Some members of a Science Advisory Board (SAB) panel are urging EPA to expand its controversial proposal clarifying when waters are subject to Clean Water Act (CWA) oversight to indicate that groundwater in many cases should be considered jurisdictional and subject to regulation.

<http://insideepa.com/201408192479614/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-advisors-suggest-expanding-waters-rule-to-oversee-groundwater/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Eyes Mine Site Strategy To Improve Costs, Effectiveness Of Cleanups** - 8/18/14 - EPA plans to develop a Superfund strategy for addressing contaminated mining sites to improve the effectiveness of those cleanups and lower costs such as through innovative treatment methods.

<http://insideepa.com/201408182479530/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-eyes-mine-site-strategy-to-improve-costs-effectiveness-of-cleanups/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - DOE Says EPA Rules Could Supplant PTC In Creating New Wind Markets** - 8/18/14 - The Department of Energy (DOE) in a new report is suggesting that EPA's climate and air toxics rules could provide a more-certain driver for new wind energy markets than the production tax credit (PTC).

<http://insideepa.com/Shared-Newsletter-Stories/Climate-Policy-Watch-Story/doe-says-epa-rules-could-supplant-ptc-in-creating-new-wind-markets/menu-id-1036.html>

#### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

#### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

#### **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**9/3/14** – Office of Water Visit to Region 7, Regional Office. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**9/10/14** - Kansas City Steel Redevelopment/Walmart Grand Opening, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

**9/10/14** – U.S. Health & Human Services Senior Leadership Meeting (Clean Power Plan), Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506

**9/14-17/14** – Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Fall Meeting, Santa Fe, N.M. Contact: Julia Cacho,

**DRA:**

**8/20/14** – Tribal Consultation Training, Regional Office. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events**

**AWMD**

None

**CNSL**

None

**ECO/EJ**

None

**ENSV**

None

**PLMG**

None

**RA/OPA**

**\*9/8/14** – Attend CAG meeting for West Lake Landfill site. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

**9/29-30/14** - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874

and Harry Diesel, 7382

## **SUPR**

None

## **WWPD**

**8/18-21/14** – Purdue Pesticide Program Certification and Training Workshop, Indianapolis, Ind. Contact: Douglas Jones, 7592

**8/19/14** – Missouri Safe Drinking Water Commission Meeting, Joplin, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

**8/20/14** – Water Quality Standards Triennial Review with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: John Reyna, 7021

**8/26-28/14** – Kansas Water Environment Association/Kansas Section, American Water Works Association Joint Conference, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Wayne Dillard, 7885

**9/8-11/14** – National EPA Small Systems Drinking Water Technical Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

**9/9/14** – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Program Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

## **Des Moines Register**

### **Iowa CCI threatens suit if environmental leaders vote**

By Donnelle Eller, [deller@dmreg.com](mailto:deller@dmreg.com) 1:25 p.m. CDT August 18, 2014

A state environmental protection panel will consider rules Tuesday that will guide how Iowa livestock facilities are regulated, but a group that says the proposal is too weak is already threatening a lawsuit.

The political arm of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement -- Iowa CCI Action Fund -- says it will take legal action against the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission if five members that the group says have conflicts of interest do not recuse themselves from voting -- and if the rules are not strengthened.

"We believe it would be an illegal vote," without the members abstaining from the vote, said Adam Mason, an organizer for the Iowa Citizens Community Improvement.

Iowa CCI is one of three environmental groups that have pushed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take over enforcement of the federal Clean Water Act. Their petition led to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to sign a work plan nearly a year ago, laying out oversight.

Chuck Gipp, director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, said the proposed rules mirror federal water protection rules that the environmental groups initially sought. And he said they will protect Iowa waters.

"If you have a pollution event, and a water body is impaired, you're going to be regulated," Gipp said. "You're going to get a notice of violation. If you have a fish kill, you're going to pay for damages, and you're going to have to correct the situation. That's the reality."

Iowa CCI has demanded in recent weeks that five commissioners -- Gene Ver Steeg, Brent Rastetter, Max Smith, Nancy Couser, and Cindy Greiman -- recuse themselves from voting on the proposed rules, saying they would benefit from weakening the rules.

State leaders have argued that the members do not have a conflict and state law requires the commission to have industry representatives.

Last month, the Iowa Supreme Court said a former environmental protection commission member -- who worked for an environmental group -- should not be disqualified from voting on a statewide water quality rule that "she personally and professionally supported."

CCI's Mason argued that the current commissioners are in a different situation -- that her income was not directly affected by her work on the board. "These commissioners will vote on something that will affect their bottom dollar," he said.

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. and will be held in the Wallace State Office Building Auditorium, 502 E. Ninth St.

## **Des Moines Register**

### **Environmental group's TV ad knocks Ernst for oil fundraiser**

By Jason Noble, jnoble2@dmreg.com 12:58 p.m. CDT August 19, 2014

NextGen Climate, the environmental advocacy group that is one of the top players in Iowa's hotly contested U.S. Senate race, is out with a new TV ad today attacking Republican candidate Joni Ernst.

The 30-second spot highlights a fundraiser Ernst attended in July sponsored by oil and gas interests, including the America Petroleum Institute and ExxonMobil's political arm.

The ad features a snippet of WHO-TV newsman Dave Price reporting on the event and noting the oil groups' opposition to biofuel mandates, which drive much of Iowa's agriculture economy.

"...Her big oil backers are trying to gut Iowa renewables," a narrator intones. "Joni Ernst and her big oil backers -- to close for Iowa's comfort."

The ad is the third in a series of ads running across five weeks in the Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and the Quad Cities. The total ad buy for the series totals \$2.6 million.

Ernst is running against Democratic U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley for the Senate seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Tom Harkin. It's one of the closest races in the country and has

attracted big spending by outside groups looking to influence the makeup of the next Senate.

In response to the ad, Ernst's campaign said the candidate had a "proven record of support for renewable fuels."

"As the rural candidate in the race for the U.S. Senate, the members of Iowa's agricultural community are more to Joni than just a significant part of our state's economy — they are her neighbors, friends, constituents and family," spokeswoman Gretchen Hamel said. "Joni has strongly supported renewable fuels in the Iowa Senate, and she will continue to passionately defend them once elected to the U.S. Senate."

## Wall Street Journal

### OPINION

#### Obama's Second-Term Energy Policy Is Working

He's reducing CO2 coal emissions via regulation, but he can do more to develop U.S. oil and natural gas.

By JOHN DEUTCH

Aug. 18, 2014 7:23 p.m. ET

President Obama has put energy and the environment at the top of his second-term agenda. The focus has been on climate change, and on exploiting the unexpected plenty of North American oil, gas and energy technology. The administration's progress has been notable—especially in comparison with health care, immigration and foreign affairs.

The president's highest priority is to reduce the carbon-dioxide emissions of existing electricity generating power plants. In June the Environmental Protection Agency released an unexpectedly thoughtful and well-supported plan setting specific goals for reducing emissions chosen from a menu of measures such as increased efficiency, emissions trading and fuel switching, mainly from coal to natural gas for electricity generation. The projected CO2 reductions—about 30% below 2005 levels by 2030—are reasonable and shouldn't significantly increase industry or consumer costs.

Ironically, the EPA's regulations for existing power plants are more realistic than those it has issued for new coal and natural gas plants. The agency has justified its rules for new plants by asserting that carbon sequestration—the capture and storage of CO2 in underground reservoirs—is an "adequately demonstrated control technology." It certainly isn't, and it's also too expensive. But it likely doesn't matter since no one is planning a new coal-fired electricity generating plant in the U.S. in the foreseeable future.

The president's strategy to reduce CO2 emissions through regulation thus appears to be succeeding, though the EPA may suffer a backlash. The public expects the agency to be a fair and capable administrator of a policy endorsed by a majority of Congress, rather than the promoter of a presidential policy, no matter how meritorious, that doesn't command widespread public support.

The EPA regulations will strengthen the U.S. position in international climate negotiations that seek to reduce global greenhouse-gas emissions. However, few believe that mitigation of global emissions will be sufficient to avoid disruptive climate change.

Instead, the U.S. needs a strategy for adaptation to climate change. The president's climate action plan announced in June 2013 takes a step in this direction. It points to improving the resiliency of U.S. infrastructure in the face of extreme weather events, a goal that resonates with the public. But while climate science links climate change and extreme weather, no such link has been established between large hurricanes, like 2005's Hurricane Katrina, and global warming. How the world adapts to the economic disruption and possible conflict that will accompany climate change is of growing consequence.

The administration also has been hesitant to grasp the opportunities presented by the North American oil and gas revolution. While recognizing the tremendous benefits from lower oil and gas prices, more jobs and reduced imports, the administration has been slow to advance specific proposals for allowing the export of crude oil and has approved eight permits for the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The fear is that exports will cause domestic oil and gas prices to rise. As a close observer of natural gas production—and a director of Cheniere Energy Inc., LNG +2.27% the only company granted a license with a plant to export LNG under construction—I find this fear misplaced. It is fanciful to expect LNG exports will drive the domestic price of natural gas up because North American natural gas reserves are enormous and it's unlikely that more than a dozen or so U.S. export facilities will be approved.

Mr. Obama is likely to continue delaying a decision on approving the Keystone XL pipeline. But this should not stop the administration from proposing measures to modernize oil and gas distribution. Pipelines are generally safer and less expensive than railcars for moving oil products to market.

The greatest risk is that public concern about the environmental risks will lead to bans on hydraulic fracturing. The major effects are on water and air quality, community disruption and induced seismic activity. Incredibly, the EPA won't begin adopting regulatory guidelines for water management until 2015. There are also serious tensions between the EPA and state regulators, who know local geological and operating practices. Given the stakes, companies should commit now to reducing the environmental impact of their operations.

Mr. Obama's support for new energy technology, begun under Energy Secretary Steven Chu, is continuing under Ernie Moniz. The administration's often-mentioned "all of the above energy strategy" implies that it will pursue all energy options equally.

While this makes sense as a declaration of intent, priorities need to be set. The first priority should be substantial support for basic R&D, because private industry lacks the commercial justification to undertake studies that may have long-term benefits they cannot capture. Some technologies deserve government support—such as carbon sequestration, which is essential for clean coal. Others don't deserve support because they are too expensive—e.g., nuclear power—or because markets and technical progress have already made them commercially viable, such as grid-connected solar photovoltaics.

President Obama is having greater success in advancing his energy agenda in his second term than in his first. But it will take more than one successful term to secure the country's energy future. To coin a phrase for the next president: One good term deserves another.

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